

7 November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of an exciting development in our wellbeing provision which is being trialled this term – a wellbeing dog. As you may have seen from articles shared in our social media, many school across the UK now have dogs on site as a strategy to support their wellbeing provision and some educationalists are advocating dogs in every school for wellness reasons. This article is an interesting read <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47655600> on the subject.

Once a week for the rest of this term there will be a dog in school. These dogs belong to staff members and have been assessed for their suitability in the role and will continue to be assessed on their trial day. During the trial days the dog will be based in the wellbeing room during the school day with walks around the school site before school, at break and lunch, and after school. The role is to provide students visiting the wellbeing room with some calm and quiet time to alleviate stress. We expect the role to develop from there once a specific dog has been selected. The dates of each trial day are below:

Thursday 14 November
Monday 18 November
Wednesday 27 November
Weds 4 December
Weds 11 December

I am aware that some students have allergies or cynophobia and that parents and carers will be understandably concerned about this development. By knowing where the dog will be, and when, should help the students know how to avoid any contact during this trial period. The dates the dogs will be in school will also be shared with all students via the student bulletin. There are strict rules for dog handlers to abide by, including that the dog must never be off the lead in a public area and that the dog must always be supervised. Please do let the school know if your child has cynophobia or a dog hair allergy, if you have not already done so via the student data sheets completed on admission to the school.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support for this initiative.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Barnes
Senior Deputy Headteacher